

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry propaganda program as a documentary days before the election is an outrage. It is also a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. This propaganda serves no one but special interests: those large companies which control the airwaves. When this happens we get more of what's good for the bottom line, power, and pocket books of a few and less of what we need for our democracy. It is incumbent upon the FCC to assure that a documentary is truly that and not the opinion of a single interest. We need substantive news about issues that matter, not self-serving propaganda.

It is wrong to allow this program to be shown as a documentary and not identified as the advertising which it is.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you